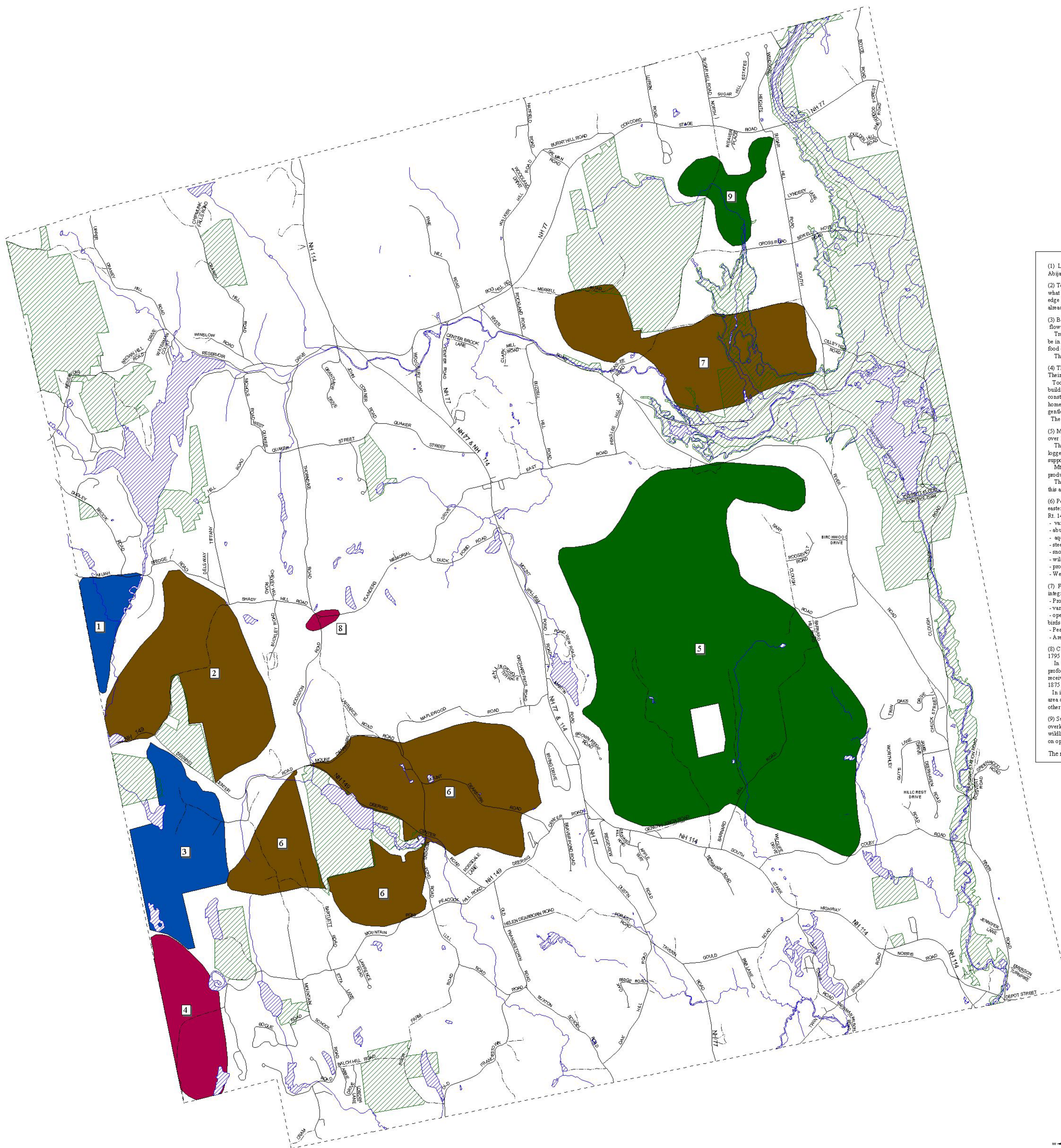


# WEARE

## Regional Environmental Planning Program:

## Natural & Cultural Resources Identified for Protection



- (1) Lake Horace Marsh - The Town of Weare approved and the State of NH accepted, under RSA 483, Lake Horace Marsh, from Abigail Bridge to the Deering town line, as a Prime Wetland, the first such approved in the state.
- (2) Tobey Hill - The area includes 30 Acres of open fields, which is a browsing area and habitat for a variety of animals. The area also offers what is an ever-decreasing prey source for raptors and vultures. In addition the field/forest edge community is invaluable. The field's scarce Becket soils should be protected from unwise development. A portion of this area has already been protected.
- (3) Bartlett Brook/Ferris Pond - Bartlett Brook is an extremely productive and useful waterway. Its instream attributes include six marsh/wetland flowages. Each of these presents a different habitat and accounts for much of the diversity throughout this area. Track counts here, done by qualified trappers, account for bobcat in the years 1996 and 1997. There is reason to believe two pairs may be in the territory. Mink, river otter, moose, red and gray fox, coyote, weasel, plentiful fish, plus a healthy variety of the usual and necessary food chain supporters are present. This area is adjacent to protected land.
- (4) The Green Farm - These lands were once part of a large colonial farm. Elisha Green (b. 1762 - married Abigail Gove) settled this land. Their son, Ezra (b. 1803 - married Anna White) carried on and greatly expanded the 180 acre holding. Today the farmland is forested and offers habitats of most varieties. Still impressive are the foundations of the Green Farm's primary buildings: the immense barn, probably of three levels, and the homestead. The home's outer foundation, and its massive chimney were constructed of cut granite, not fieldstone. Even wooded, the property's vast network of stone walls, running 4000 or more, south from the homestead, tell a clear undeniable story. Fine soils (Mallow) provided a hundred acres, or more, of tillable rich land. At the base of these gentle south-sloping fields existed a hay producing wetland. The Greens, Ezra and Anna are buried in a single plot, with a marker, just south of their homestead.
- (5) Melvin Valley - Of the dozen, or so, properties making up the most significant natural lands of the Melvin Valley, one parcel containing over 1000 acres is the largest single owner lot in the Town of Weare. This is the largest area of privately owned, undeveloped habitat in the Piscataquog River Watershed. The area has been repeatedly logged. This constant thinning of trees has, over many years, created a continuous young-forest habitat. Such a condition attracts and supports a wide variety of wildlife. Mr. William and Green hill provide a wide variety of natural niches for wildlife. Eastman and Otter Brooks are both prime examples of productive streams, each providing habitat and food for many indigenous species. The largest glacial erratic in the watershed is in this valley and one of the rarest wildflowers known throughout North America grows in this area.
- (6) Perkins Pond Ecosystem - Perkins Pond Marsh, and acreage to the west which includes a portion of the mountainous terrain on Mt. Misery's eastern slope, is a managed wildlife refuge, overseen by NH Fish & Game Dept. The refuge provides canoeing and scenic vistas along Rt. 149. The lands surrounding the refuge should be considered for protection for the following reasons:
- varied, undeveloped, but threatened, habitat.
  - abundant mast available for deer, wild turkey and moose. (Moose winter stop Mt. Misery)
  - aquatic environment and food for otter, mink, reptiles, amphibians, and many birds.
  - steep, protected upland ledges present for bobcat.
  - snowshoe hare habitat atop Mt. Misery attract fisher and coyote.
  - wild brooks based insects which make protein for tropical migrating and nesting birds.
  - provides an alternative breeding stock for mammals traveling from the protected areas along the southwestern border of town.
  - Weare's only mine is located here. Soapstone was excavated on Mt. Misery. The pit and tailings-pile still remain.
- (7) Felch Farm - This area is adjacent to the Town Forest. Because significant wildlife habitat in this area contributes directly to the natural integrity of the Town Forest, this area should be considered for open space protection.
- Protection of this area will connect the Town Forest with the 2000 acre Government Flood Area.
  - varied forest types and extremes in topography attract wildlife.
  - open fields for grazing, browsing, and feeding lie adjacent to the Town Forest lands. (Note: Open fields are necessities for our indigenous birds of prey. Few such fields remain.)
  - Peaslee Meadow Brook habitat is large, varied in its number and quality of aquatic zones, and well protected from developmental disruptions.
  - Area's many vernal pools ensure important populations of amphibians and aquatic insects - both being basics for a quality food chain.
- (8) Clinton Grove - Clinton Grove was settled in the 1770's by the following Quaker families: Gove, Chase, Breed, Hodgdon, and Paige. In 1795 a Quaker meetinghouse was built on the north side of the common with a burial ground adjacent to it. In 1834 a group of prominent Quakers in the area established the Clinton Grove Academy. The influence of the school on the town was profound. It was well-known throughout the country, with students coming from as far away as Alabama and Texas. Many Weare residents received their education at the academy, and some returned to teach there. The Academy burned in 1872 and was rebuilt in 1874. It closed in 1875 and functioned as a district school until 1934. In its heyday, the village had a blacksmith shop, a tannery, a store, a boarding house, the academy and a post office. What remains of the area are: the cemeteries, the boulder from which Quakers mounted their horses after meeting, the homes of some of the original settlers, other homes built since then, and the academy building.
- (9) Sugar Hill South - The Sugar Hill Area includes the two large active dairy/cattle farms in Weare. The open fields and farm buildings overlooking the federal flood control land provide a view which led the AAA to list route 77 as a scenic road. This area is now a corridor for wildlife to travel between the Felch Farm Town Forest and Flood Control Lands. Forest land is valuable habitat, but many species rely on open fields and field margins.

The numbers given to sites are used only for identification and do not indicate any form of prioritization.

### Legend

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Political Boundary                              | Resources Identified for Preservation   |
| Major Highway                                   | Ecological Resources                    |
| Secondary Highway                               | Historic & Cultural Resources           |
| Road or Street                                  | Land, Forestry & Agricultural Resources |
| Unimproved Road                                 | Water Resources                         |
| Water Bodies                                    |   |
| Protected Lands* & Undeveloped Town Owned Lands |   |

\* Protected Lands - Land protected from development through conservation easement, restrictions, or outright ownership by an organization or agency whose mission includes protecting land in perpetuity, more than 50% of area will remain undeveloped.

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